

**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

*John H. Kerr Dam & Reservoir
Wilmington District*

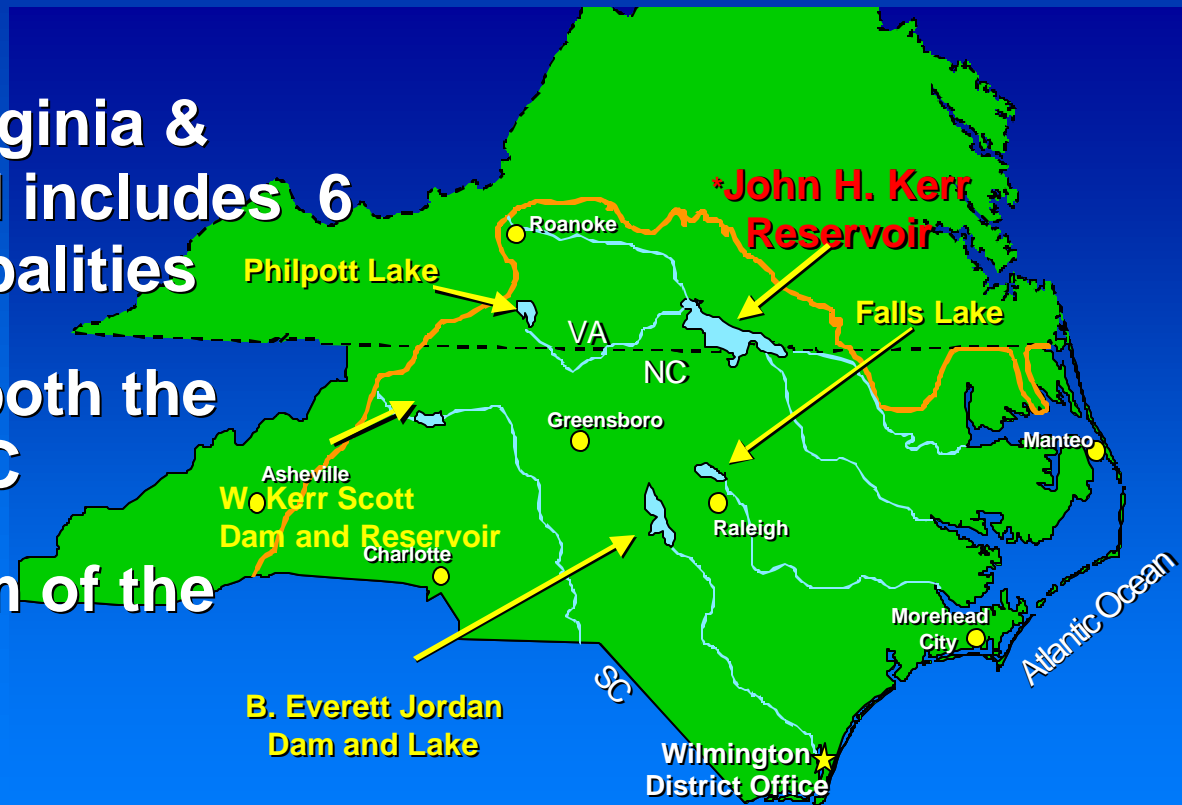
Authorized Purposes

The Project was authorized in 1944 by the 78th Congress at an estimated cost of \$87,000,000

- ◆ Flood Damage Reduction
- ◆ Hydroelectric Power Generation
- ◆ Water Supply
- ◆ Fish and Wildlife Conservation
- ◆ Recreation
- ◆ Low Water Regulation

Project Location

- ◆ Located within Virginia & North Carolina and includes 6 counties & municipalities
- ◆ Within 2 hours of both the capitals of VA & NC
- ◆ 179 miles upstream of the Albemarle Sound



Watershed / Drainage Basin



7,800 square miles upstream
drainage

FIGURE 2-01
ROANOKE RIVER BASIN

Project Size

- ◆ 48,900 surface acres of water
- ◆ 57,600 acres of fee-owned public lands above the 300 foot-contour
- ◆ 10,509 flowage easement acres (34 clauses)
- ◆ 800 miles of shoreline
- ◆ 895 miles of project boundary line



Project History

- ◆ Construction occurred 1947 - 1952, following record flood of 1940
- ◆ Originally named the “Buggs Island Project”
- ◆ 3 shifts of 700 men worked 24 hours per day, seven days per week during dam construction
- ◆ Acquisition of surrounding lands involved purchase, condemnations, or easement agreements
- ◆ 82nd Congress renamed the project John H. Kerr Dam & Reservoir in 1951, in honor of the NC Congressman
- ◆ Construction was filmed and produced as movie “TITAN IN CONCRETE”
- ◆ 50TH ANNIVERSARY celebrated 28 September 2002 with original construction employees as official guests of honor

Rich in Cultural History

- ❖ **Occoneechee Indians**
- ❖ **Buffalo Springs National Historic Site**
- ❖ **Many old sites of Antebellum plantations**
- ❖ **Link to Roanoke Island's Lost Colony & Cape Hatteras Lighthouse**
- ❖ **Revolutionary & Civil War connections**
- ❖ **1918 Train Wreck lying in Nutbush Creek**
- ❖ **Jamestown 2007**



Rich in Natural History

- ❖ 6 active Bald Eagle nests produced 11 young in 2004!
- ❖ 2004 Christmas Bird Count yielded sighting of Golden Eagle
- ❖ Status of Fisheries? Advisory group meeting 10 March 05



Rich in Recreation

- ◆ 14 Campgrounds with 1,270 campsites (VA, NC, & Corps)
- ◆ 16 Day Use Areas operated by Corps of Engineers
- ◆ 34 boat launching ramps lake-wide
- ◆ Designated “Safe Swim” Areas
- ◆ Individual Picnic Sites and Shelters
- ◆ 3 Universally Accessible Fishing Piers
- ◆ New Bank Fishing Areas
- ◆ Interpretive & Hiking Trails
- ◆ Joseph SJ Tanner, II Environmental Ed Center
- ◆ New Visitor Centers at Occoneechee and Satterwhite Pt.
- ◆ North Bend Park (USACE) named to Nation’s “TOP 100”



Recreational Leases

- ◆ VA State Parks - 2,690 acres leased for Occoneechee State Park
- ◆ NC State Parks - 2,394 acres leased for Kerr Lake State Recreation Area
- ◆ 19 Quasi-Public Areas - 2,216 acres leased to various organizations & groups for recreational enjoyment
- ◆ 3 Marinas - 276 acres



Project Use Revenues 2004

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| North Bend Campground | \$220,665 |
| Rudd's Creek | 126,028 |
| Longwood | 73,397 |
| Buffalo | 18,949 |
| RECREATION USE FEES FY 04 | \$439,039 |
| Shoreline Use Permits | \$ 47,563 |
| <i>TOTAL</i> | \$486,602 |

Joseph SJ Tanner, II

Environmental Education Center

- Regional Center for all six counties
- 3-Ring Learning Tree Program for grades K-12
- Planned partnership with NC Aquarium & Dominion VA Power for 2005



Special Events

- ◆ Average 125 Special Events per year
- ◆ 90 to date for 2005
- ◆ Governed by Engineer Regulations
- ◆ Kerr utilizes Special Event Permit as Outreach opportunity
- ◆ Partnerships with fishing organizations assist with management of the resource:
 - ◆ Special Event Areas
 - ◆ Bank Fishing Areas
 - ◆ Creel Studies with VDGIF
 - ◆ Children's Programs

Safety Council

- ◆ Kerr-Buggs Island Safety Council - 2 National Awards
- ◆ Funded & Implemented Life Jacket Loaner Program
- ◆ Volunteer Buoy Watch Program
- ◆ US Coast Guard Auxiliary Patrols during peak visitation
- ◆ KBISC meets monthly and is comprised of agencies and citizens concerned with SAFETY



Mill Creek, 21 Jan 05



Shoreline Management

- ◆ **GOAL:** Maintain balance between permitted private uses and protection of natural and cultural resources for use by the general public.

- ◆ **Revenues FY 04 = \$47,563**

- ◆ **33% of 800 miles of shoreline is zoned as “Limited Development”**



Shoreline Use Permits

- 5 Rangers dedicated full time to Shoreline
- 800 miles of shoreline to inspect and regulate
- 3, 581 Shoreline Use Permits
- 2,763 Private Docks
- 9,176 permitted activities
- Land Use Requests and Permits increasing
- 33% of shoreline is zoned for private docks & other permits



Shoreline Erosion

- Continuing Problem
- Corps has eroded into private land in some areas
- Solutions: “Cost Share Erosion Control” partnerships
- 82 Cost Shares to date
- Corps contributes \$2500 per project, with \$155,282 invested
- Public investment is \$1,067,037 to the United States



Forestry

◆ Forest Management

- * 35,000 acres intensively managed
- * 600 acres thinned in last five years

◆ Harvesting & Reforestation

- * 200 acres harvested
- * 111 acres pine beetle salvaged
- * \$562,000 returned to project

◆ Other:

- * Wildfire Suppression
- * Encroachments / Appraisals
- * Provide Forestry Support to Other Projects



Wildlife

- ◆ 14,000 acres in 26 designated WMA 'S
- ◆ Wildlife habitat management
- ◆ Largest tract of federally owned land in southern Virginia/ northern piedmont of North Carolina
- ◆ Threatened & endangered species monitoring
- ◆ 5 Waterfowl impoundments



Water Management Upstream (& The Two Extremes)

- Tourism
- Adjoining property owners
- Fisheries
- Access Issues
- Mosquitoes and invasive plants
- Water Quality – drought and floods
- Municipal water supplies



Municipal Water Supplies

- **MGD = Million Gallons per Day**
- **Clarksville, VA – 0.3 MGD**
- **Kerr Lake Regional (Henderson)– 10 MGD**
- **Virginia Dept. of Corrections – 0.06 MGD**
- **Mecklenburg Co-Gen Plant – 2.3 MGD**

Water Management Downstream

- Dissolved Oxygen in Lower Roanoke (Turbine Venting)
- Stagnating tributaries
- Invasive plant growth in low water
- Salt water influx into upstream interests
- Striped Bass spawning in Spring
- Inundation of bottom hardwoods
- Bank erosion

